

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 - Issue # 36 - December 2002

Dear FRS-Holland Friends!

Welcome in this final 2002 edition. As always it was a fight to have this edition in time in your mailbox. I hope it will reach you before X-Mas. The X-Mas Holiday Season is the time of the year when there's the most activity on the various bands, let's hope propagation won't be spoilsport. May I say thanks to all of you. No doubt your 2002 membership was a support for the FRS Newsletter and I hope you will renew for the New Year 2003. And yes, like all years lying behind us I appeal to all subscribers: send your renewal in January and don't wait till the Summer or even autumn has started. It costs too much energy to remind people that their subscription has to be renewed and perhaps some readers could send their 2002 fee still isn't received. Season's Greetings are going out to all of you now 2003 become a healthy, radio active and great year!

73%, Peter V.

Full of good intentions for the year 2003? Your first one is sending your renewal straightaway to FRSN, P.O.Box 2702 in 6049 ZG Herten. It is simple and takes less than 5 minutes. For € 6 / 6 pounds/ US\$6 you will receive this Newsletter for another year. Don't hesitate but do it...NOW!!

- * If you don't want sending coins you can pay :
 1) € 5 banknote + one US dollar. Alternatively.....
 2) € 5 banknote + 2x € 0,50 stamps (only German or Dutch stamps are accepted!).

FRS Broadcasting Activities

The past few months FRS carried out two broadcasts on SW. Similar to 2001, September (22nd) saw a 4 hour broadcast on 41 metres 7450 which was used for a period of more than 24 hours. Response was not as good as last year mostly likely of less favourable band conditions. But all in all we are satisfied with the number of listeners dropping in on line.

The FRS 22nd birthday party went out on Sun October 27th. Minutes before the actual time would start, we decided to change frequency from 7475 to 7480 kHz. There was "something" audible on 7475, not strong, but as we could not directly identify it we decided to play safe and shifted frequency to the clear 7480 channel. Early in the morning propagation was good but that changed in the course of the morning. Fading & noise badly affected the strong signal. A pity. On 48 metres a loop tape was informing the listeners that FRS was on 41 metres. The message was played on 6210 and later that morning on 6275 kHz. Programme wise [and that was it all about the listening evidence was offered a wide variety of music, DX information and programme news. It seems every year the number of different persons taking the trouble to write in is decreasing. That's very discouraging and disappointing but it seems to be reality in SW low radio land. In the mean time the special October 2002 GSN card has been forwarded to those who send in a smallish report. We will always reply to those sending in an E-mail but it's our policy those people won't get a GSN. Despite less mail, FRS-Holland will go on trying to entertain listeners with professional programmes, a number of programme items, quality pop music and a unique DX programme. December 21st/22nd FRS has planned a 5+1 hour X-Mas broadcast hopefully going out on 7475 kHz. The lastest news is [we heard it just a couple of hours before compiling these words] that FRS-Holland will also be on 48 metres next Sunday (but in parallel with 41 metres!) And more than ever FRSN will be offering its listeners a great and diverse programme output with ingredients such as the Phrase that pays, live radio moments (Radio Europa), FRS archive recordings from X-Mas 1987, of course lots of good music, the letters from September & October and last but not least almost 60 (!) minutes of DX information: FRS QSOs (Diverse part 1 & 2). The X-Mas Season will also see at least one hot to North America on 48 or 41 metres in the early morning hours. Possibly on the 22nd and/or 29th December. We still believe [and I said this already a year ago] there is certainly a need for the kind of programming FRS is putting out. Not only us but also stations like European Music Radio, Manilla, Nova, WNR etc.] That strengthens our conviction to continue in 2003 with quality programming on SW!! Good news, a fourth presenter will join the FRS ranks. Frank Conrad will be doing the absolute show on 41 metres in February or March. And that means that the period of absence following the X-Mas Season will only take 2 or 3 months rather than more than 6!

FRS Sales Productions

FRS Sales Productions offers you a wide range of video and audio tapes from radio stations all over the world. At the moment a great number of new recordings

(more than 100 hours) are or have already been added. That means that the 2000 lists have been updated. Lots of people are interested in Radio 192 recordings: FRS Sales Prod. offers more than 30 hours of Radio 192. In case you are interested in obtaining the complete broadband FRS Sales Prod. catalogue, then send € 1.50 / 1.50 £/ US \$2.00 / € 1.00 to FRS Sales Productions, P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands. We offer tapes & videos for incredible prices, special discounts are given when ordering more than 5 tapes. And recordings can also be obtained on CD or CDR if worth while to get hold of the revised catalogue, so where are you waiting for? The FRS SALES LIST 2002/2003 contains hundreds of recordings from radio stations all over the world. It's also available via Email (attachement = free).

E-mail address: <frs.holland@hccnet.nl>

P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

General

[1] First a look at the propagation over the past few months: September 22nd good propagation, September 29th, good, October 6th, fair/good, October 13th good/fair; October 20th fair/good, October 27th fair/good; November 3rd poor, November 10th, good, November 17th, good; November 24th, fair. Looking at the activities on the bands, it is crystal clear that since October activity has increased. Sun Nov. 10th no less than 40 or more stations were to be received on the various bands, an absolute record at least when looking back at the previous month.

[2] September 22nd 2002 marked the start of TRANSATLANTIC RECEPTION of Euro parties. A number of American DXers came in trying to catch Euro parties early every weekend. One of the most active, perhaps the most active DXer is Dave Vailo who proudly announced his first successful reception in the 3rd weekend of September. Best times for having positive results is between 05.00-08.00 UTC. Dave uses a professional NRD-535D receiver. These stations were picked up by him in the early morning of Sun Sept. 22nd: Laser Hot Hits on 9385, 6219 and 7465, FRS-Holland on 7450, RAL 15070, Radio Berdenham on 15795, Crystal Radio 6275, WMR 7525, Sensation AM 15725, RMI 6245, Chrome 6240, UK Radio 6246. Sun 29th more stations were being received: West Coast Radio on 6299, UK Radio 6246, RAL 6210, Radio Tower 7465, Pleasider 6308, Chrome 6240, CRR 7475, IHH 6245 (via JRM) and IHH on 7465, 6219, 9385 & 3970 (best signal was the 31 mb output), October 13th Radio Manba 6210, 6267 UK Radio, Laser Hot Hits 6219, 7465 and 9385 kHz. October 27th Radio Omroep Zuid on 21890 kHz. Sun Dec. 8th Radio Manba 6210, Radio 48 6309, RAL 6300, Radio Brigitte 6540, RSD 21890, Cupido 21895 and Berdenham 21880.

[3] News from Jerry regarding the future of S5news: "Well, I have decided to stop the press. December 30th will be the last issue of S5news! After almost 4 years and approx. 800 pages of logs, it is time for some rest. This is what will happen, as it looks today: 1. S5news will close down....2. SRS Maildrop will remain....3. SRS.jp will remain and will be more interactive....4. Well, we have to wait and see.... Thank you Jerry for all your hard work over the years!"

[4] Since the October/November period several stations have been making arrangements with the Free Radio Service Holland (owning the P.O. Box 2702 in Herten facilities). Apart from FRSN, the following stations are making use of P.O. Box 2702: Radio Brigitte, Radio Berdenham, Radio Omroep Zuid (ROZ), Radio Victoria, Radio Spacelab Int. & RIN 2000.

[5] Dier Tom Read from the UK has set up an interesting website showing a wide variety of GSNs he received from stations all over the world. The webpage contains GSNs from both private and legal stations. Send to: <tomread@uk>. And now for something completely different: the SW Free Radio Scene....

[6] Monday Nov. 4th UK-based RADIO 48 was noted on 6300. We are not sure who's behind the new UK station and whether there are ties with the Radio 48 from the 80s, using the well-known Victoria Rd. add. Sun Nov. 23rd & Dec. 7th 6300 was again in use. Email add is: <radio48@btinternet.com>

[7] Dutch genre RADIO 757 is rarely to be heard on SW. Sun Dec. 8th the station popped up on 6275 with a few signal. Last time Radio 757 was active was in May of this year. Email add could be: <radio757@btinternet.com>. Power seems to be a mere 15W.

[8] APOLLO 815 is a station based in Alaska in the North-West of the Netherlands. The station was heard on 6310 Sun Oct. 6th with fair/good signals. Email add was: <apolloradio15@btinternet.com> but it looks like this one is not in use anymore. Don't confuse this one with a station from Berlin in the North-east of the country using almost the same name, namely Radio Apollo. The latter one was heard Sun Oct. 13th on 6275.

[9] RADIO SARDINIA is a clearing is: <radio@sardinia@btinternet.com> address and can only be reached via: <radio@sardinia@btinternet.com>

[10] RADIO BERDENHAM made a successful hot to North America on 15795 kHz Sun Sept. 22nd. And the station was not only heard in the land of Uncle Sam but also in New Zealand. Sun Oct. 6th Berdenham was heard heard on 6210, then the station changed to 6280. Signals on both frequencies were very strong! Sun Oct. 13th Berdenham was heard with excellent signals in Australia. That morning Berdenham was active on 15795 kHz. Sun Oct. 20th the station was blasting out

on 6210 kHz in the late morning. Finally we mention Sun Dec. 8th when the station was heard loud and clear on 6200. That same day in the afternoon *Bordeaux* started North America on 21880 and was indeed received with a fine signal on the other side of the Atlantic. Add it P.O. Box 2702, 6049 ZG Heren in the Netherlands. Email is: <bordeaur@hetnet.nl>.

[**RADIO BRIGITTE**] was heard on 6373 MHz Sun Sept. 15th & 29th. Signals are mostly fair. Sun Oct. 6th 6273, 6373 and 6540 were in use. Oct. 13th Brigitte was on 6407 Nov. 10th 6540 was in use. Another favourite frequency is 6373 and this one was used Sun Dec. 8th Brigitte was back on 6540. The station is operated by OPF from whose now 671. Certainly a unique situation in SW free radio land. Address is: P.O. Box 2702, 6049 ZG Heren in the Netherlands. E-mail is: <radio@sunflower@hotmail.com>.

[**Dutch RADIO CENTRAL**] was noted with a nice signal on 6290 Sun Oct. 20th. Central made use of a new antenna and had some minor problems with the modulation. Sun Nov. 10th saw Central on 6263. The station suffered from bad problems, at least for the speech. The station uses the following address: P.O. Box 73, 7140 AB Nieuwe in the Netherlands.

[**Sun Nov. 10th RADIO CONTINENTAL**] returned on SW 48 metres after a long absence. The station produced a nice signal. Sat Nov. 16th tests were conducted on 6305. Add it P.O. Box 1104, NL-8001 BC Zwolle in the Netherlands. Fri Nov. 15th a new Email was announced: <continental66@hotmail.com>.

[**CRAZY WAVE RADIO**] (6) was heard together with German colleagues *Deutsche DLR* & *Radio* on 6203 Sun Dec. 8th. A fair/good signal was heard during the last hour of the live one. The signal was also heard on 6305 although not exactly in parallel. The Needs was also given.

[**RADIO DIGITAL**] is a new station which was heard on Sun Oct. 6th. Signal quality was rather poor. Email address is: <radio4@hetnet.nl>.

[**Sun Nov. 17th Dutch RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND**] (7) was heard on 7430 following a long absence. The station was heard with bad ticks and produced a wonderful signal.

[**EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO**] made a surprising return via the 985 on 13840 MHz/13 metres. Sat/Sun Nov. 23rd/24th saw EMR with a 60 min. show via the powerful 10 kW AFA output. After the listening audience was informed about the new EMR activities via Email. For the time being one hour time slots are planned which will be presented by EMR's founder Boon Stephens. In the Nov. shows it was clearly stated EMR is from now on a legal operation. The EMR mailing list is not being used anymore, instead the following add it valid. EMR, c/o FRS - Sharfower, P.O. Box 10910, 12010 IL-10910. And EMR had a few very interesting items in operation: <emr@holland.com>. As always, the station will be heard twice in the weekend of playing. Dec. 14th/15th saw EMR between 09:30-10:30. A Festival of new and classic tracks was played. Interesting as always was the popular London based Free Radio spot featuring interesting tape archive recordings from the period 1968-1985. This time Radio Jackie was in the spotlight. Rec. reports, personal information and programme comments are more than welcome. Please send in a CD or a cassette tape and we will have a special Email QSL and station info-sheet. The history of EMR is an interesting one starting in the late 1970s.

Reported history... EMR started in the late 70s, the first official shows were aired in May 1977 following a test period which began in 1976. EMR developed into Europe's leading SW station with a great variety of music and speech-oriented sets. It was the first station seriously using a 48 & 45 kHz channel in parallel, it was the first one testing to North America (4th 10910). And EMR had a few very talented presenters such as Al Beland and the late Roger Tate. Oct. 1980 EMR was raised but show continued via the facilities of FRS Holland on 5th Sunday. EMR finally closed down Sun. June 12th 1983, a very weird thing then happened because FRS-Holland and EMR were of the same moment on the same frequency. Not for long, after a few minutes FRS signed off clearing the frequency for its station. Later... In the late 90s EMR returned to the European airwaves. With a new team and some of the old presenters, with a brand new package (Roger Tate, Peter V., Herbert Wouter, Johnny Bear, Boon Stephens) and with new sets. The comeback in April 1997 was of the same home EMR's 26th birthday but was overshadowed by some bad luck. The station would be relayed via RFL but that was cancelled twice. Eventually the signal came from Ireland but was only poor on the European continent. Oct. 5th 1997 the complete pass on EMR were repeated on 6275 all weekend long and this time things looked much better. EMR continued with programming concentrating on the period October - March when propagation on 48 metres is favourable. The station was presented in English, German, Swedish, French and Dutch. October 3rd 1999 saw the final EMR shows although that was not known at the moment the pass went on air. The lack of response made Roy S. decide to quit. And so it was a big surprise to hear EMR returning to the airwaves Sun Jan. 27th. During that broadcast a lengthy tribute to Roger Tate who died early 2001 was presented. Roger Tate presented the Morning Show during the heydays of SW free radio and EMR, the late 70s/early 80s. Extracts were appearing between big shows real good memories. Sat Feb. 16th/Sun Feb. 17th 2002. EMR was celebrating the 25th birthday. Tests were heard on Sat/Sun on 7450 and surprisingly also on 9290. On 9290 the same pass were aired but these pass were not returning of the same time as on 41 metres. The featured French, German, Swedish, Dutch and English shows. Presenters: Steven Rold, Jean-Claude Gersbach, Mike Anderson, Peter Verbeegen and John Sandy. EMR last had a repeat of the 25th birthday on 31 metres 9290 Easter weekend. Last but not least: EMR announced further broadcasts for the months of January, February and March 2002.

[**RADIO EUROPE**] from Italy is active every Saturday and Sunday on 7306 UHF between 07:00-12:00 UTC. At present time with old shows, this is due to a

problem in the computer system. As soon as it has been repaired new shows will be put out including European Music Radio programs. E-mail for contact is: <radioeurope@tiscali.it>.

[**RADIO FAVORITE**] was heard going into the Casuarina on 6235 Sun Oct. 20th. Also 6285, 6300 & 6400 was used that day. The station announced the following address: P.O. Box 130 in 4730 AC Oosterbeek in the Netherlands.

[**FLUX AM**] returned after an absence of several years back on SW early November Sat/Sun. 2nd the station was heard with a fairly strong signal on 6302 MHz. The following day Flux again played 6301 MHz. Fri Nov. 15th the station was heard once again on 6301. Sat & Sun Nov. 16th/17th. 6274 was in use. Later that Sunday live pass were noted on 6301. 6285 was in use on Sun Dec. 1st. Radio Flux is making use of a new address: P.O. Box 33, 4158 ZG Delft, The Netherlands. E-Mail: <info@flux.nl>.

[**Mid November a new station announced the start of a series of test time on SW.** Name of the station is **FREE RADIO BEACON**, 6315 was mentioned as frequency. The station emphasized that only low power tests should be conducted to demonstrate and find out what results can be achieved at different times of the day only using a few watts. Best reception is in the USB mode because of the utility / noise stations just above 6315 kHz. Here are some technical info: Antenna: Hare wave Dipole directed north to Southland & south to Italy hanging some 5 metres above the ground, Frequency: 6314.95 kHz, Output: 60, 15, 6 and 1 mWatt (0.04, 0.015, 0.004 & 0.001 Watt), Modulation: Shifted Frequency Shift (90 Hz / 1 sec), 1 sec tones taken from 6 different countries including Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway & Poland. Signal strength: 15 mWatt, Sat/Sun Dec. 8th saw the station on air using 6 mW. Rec. reports came from Germany, Poland, mid-east France and Scotland. This is amazing knowing the QTH is in the Northern part of the Netherlands. One of the listeners replied as follows: 'If that is only 15 mW of RF power, if it is incredible that we signal making that 700 km journey. The signal was quite weak, so my S-meter probably only indicated the level of the noise. In signal it is very weak (barely audible) but no doubt, this is it! Good morning I heard a 14-40 UTC this Saturday morning. I saw low power can go in mW. I'll excellent signal for 15mW! The beacon was audible with a good antenna level.' Such response speaks for itself! The only thing which lacked was reception of the 1 mW test. In the mean time the station received one rec. report from Italy for the 1 mW test. For more info about the results of these tests, surf to the station's website. Also providing a circuit diagram of the little transmitter, it is removed this would come from the Northern part of the Netherlands. In an Email the station changed listeners to include as much info as possible about the time of day and the strongest signal. The station's homepage is: www.free-radio.beacon.nl. E-mail address is: <free-radio@beacon.nl>.

[**Latest news the following Email was received Dec. 15th and it is in addition to the info above. This time I have good news and last news. The bad news is that I have made a big mistake in my power calculations...** The good news is that the output of the Beacon is more than I have feared. I thought it was I did some calculations on the 15, 6 and 1 mW power elements and now the results are not what I was expecting. The station was not measured with a calibration. 15 mWatt was in real 11.0 mWatt, 6 mWatt was in real 1.7 mWatt, 1 mWatt was in real 0.049 mWatt. During the 1 mWatt experiment of last week only one listener from Noll has heard the Beacon signal on Saturday morning. The output was very low and that is why I have modified the attenuator circuit today to set power back to what we like to see. Now I'm sure that the output is 0.9 mWatt. A other positive point is that we know for sure that 0.049 mWatt of power is not enough to make the journey from transmitter to the microphone and back to earth.

[**RADIO GALAXY**] (10)-the UK station- was heard on 6266/6306 Sat Sep 14th. On both long pass/fair signals were heard on the European continent. Sat Oct. 19th Radio Galaxy was heard on several frequencies including 5780, 6260, 6266, 6275, 6306 and 6400 kHz. Sat Oct. 26th Galaxy was heard on RFL's old 5805 GHz in parallel with 6260.

[**There was a station of Dutch origin using the name RADIO GALAXY.** This one was noted on 7470 Sun Nov. 10th and Sat Nov. 16th. Sun Nov. 17th/Sat Nov. 22nd 7440 was in use. Sun Nov. 24th Galaxy was heard on 7440, 7442 and 7445. Sun Dec. 8th 7480 was in use. Power a 50W. New Email address: <swradio@yaho.com>.

[**RADIO GERINIMO**] (10) was relayed via RFL on 6275 and 15070 Sun Oct. 20th. A Dave Scott test was aired including letters and pop music. On 15070 Gerinimo was mentioned in Australia. Gerinimo was heard via its own Sat/Sun Sep. 22nd 7475kHz. It was in between 10:00-10:45 UTC. A very low signal was heard in the UK. Later that morning Gerinimo switched to 31metres. 9355kHz for another 45mins finishing at 11:50 UTC. Many E-mails have been received though the power was only 25w. Sun Nov. 10th and 24th Gerinimo was heard with fair signals on the continent on 7475. On the latter date a combined mailbox & oldies show was aired. E-mail is: <info@gerinimo.nl>.

[**RADIO MUSIC RADIO**] was heard a few times on 6200. Sun Sep. 29th the station put out a good signal playing classic pop tracks. Sun Oct. 20th & Nov. 10th saw GMR again on 6200 with a nice signal. Add it P.O. Box 3836, CO4 3GW Colchester, Essex in the UK.

[**RADIO GRENSWINKEL**] which could be contacted via P.O. Box 1732 in Gronau, 6384 kHz.

[**UK based Sat/Sat and Sun Oct. 12th/13th KING SW**] returned on SW 6205 following a very long period of silence. The station put out fairly poor signals. The following weekends saw the station back on 6205 with the same signal quality. E-mail address is: <king@btinternet.com>.

■ **RADIO KORAK INT.** was heard with the usual strong signal on 3927 kHz Sunday September 15th. A similar display was co-presenting the show Sat Oct 5th RD returned on 3927 but suffered from technical problems. A week later on the 12th RD was once again heard on 3927. Sat Oct 26th RD produced another very strong signal on 3927. Very loud indeed! In November RD made two broadcasts on the 14th & 30th, both on 3927. Already one week later, Sat Dec 7th, RD was back on 3927. Add in P.O. Box 134 at 3760 BC Voorburg in the Netherlands. In the mean time the station can also be reached via E-mail: <radiokorak@hotmail.com>.

■ **MAGIC AM** has a new address as a result of the closure of the Box 94 Zeilander address. From Jan. 1st onwards you can write to Magic AM, P.O. Box 73, 7160 AB Nieuwe in The Netherlands.

■ **RADIO KARABU** was noted on 6210 Sat & Sun Oct 12th/13th, Sat & Sun Nov 16th/17th and Sat/Sun Dec 7th/8th. All times were coming on relay facilities. The program on the weekend prior to the one on 6210 kHz Sat/Sun Dec 28th/29th of December 2002 with a special Christmas programme. Add in P.O. Box 1166, D-49187 Jelen, Germany Email: <karabuk@comcast.de>. Website: <www.radioamradio.de>.

■ **RADIO MAZDA** uses the following address: Muntzstraat 8, 8141 VF Haine, the Netherlands.

■ **RADIO METROCE** announced P.O. Box 71, NL-7720AB Dalfsen, the Netherlands.

■ Finnish **RADIO MELIWAITE** was heard on 6290 Sun Sept 22nd at 00:16 hours UTC. The which are only to be heard, also in English, signal quality was poor. The station's E-mail add is: radio@melwaite.fi <radio@melwaite.fi>.

■ **RADIO MISTER X** can be contacted via P.O. Box 41, 6080 AA Elburg the Netherlands.

■ **RADIO MONIQUE** is a relatively new station based in the very northern province of Friesland. Sun Sept 22nd and Sat Sept 28th Monique was heard with poor, but signal on 6284 kHz. On the 22nd 4391 was also used. During the p.m. mobile, the number was mentioned. Sat Nov 30th was a test on 6398, signal quality was fine. More broadcasts were noted on 6308 and 6398 Sun Oct 6th. Monique uses two E-mail addresses: <info@monique.nl> and <monique@thetotal.com>. Website: <www.monique.nl>.

■ Sun October 20th German powerhouse **RADIO MONO** returned on the airwaves after a break of almost 9 months. Earlier this year on Sat January 26th the station was noticed by Radio Delft. Mono was heard on 6284 kHz. On the 30th 6301 going with Dutch West Coast Radio. The signal was becoming in no doubt a powerful it was used. A week later, Sun Oct 27th, Mono was picked up on 6295 (among other freqs) relaying the SWR 3 satellite output. Sun Nov. 10th and Sat 16th Mono was back on 6295. On the 17th 6400 was used while the station was GSC-ing with Dutch colleagues. Sat Dec 7th was Mono on 6290 with the usual signal quality. The next day 6275 was in use with a brief test. Before the test Mono was often on 31, 6275 but for us we were 31 meters heard heard used since the return Mono can be reached via Email: <radio@mono.nl>.

■ **RADIO NORDMEDE** is a relatively new Dutch SW station. Sun Nov. 3rd Nordmeide was heard on 6300 & 6303. Sat Nov 9th saw the station with strong signals on 6305, the following day 6260 & 6270 were in use. Sun Nov. 17th Nordmeide was clearly heard on 6270 and Nov 30th 6277 and 6307 were occupied. Sun Dec 1st & Dec 8th Nordmeide was heard loud and clear on 6271 kHz.

There seems to be a kind of misunderstanding with the station's email address: a number of letters were received via P.O. Box 2702 in Herten but that's not the correct address. Radio Nordmeide uses P.O. Box 65, 7260 AB Rivier. This address may be familiar to SW listeners as it was used by Radio Delta Rivier. Reason for this misunderstanding is that both Dr. Tim Nieuw and SRS-Nieuw included an item about Radio Nordmeide publishing the Herten midship. Now they got this message in not clear. Radio Nordmeide can also be contacted via Email: <radio@nordmeide.nl>.

■ **RADIO NORSEET INT.** from Germany was noted with excellent signal on 6307 Sun Nov 10th. Several short tests were conducted using a different line of modulation, resulting in harmonics on both sides of 6307. Add a P.O. Box 2209, D-77617 Offenburg in Germany.

■ **RADIO NOVA INT.** (4) from the UK returned on SW 7450 kHz Sat & Sunday November 2nd/3rd. Signal quality was fair with always a loud & clear modulation. It good to hear this station back on the air. Nova has been on air already since late Summer. The real come back however took place one week later when Nova appeared on 6210 all weekend long. Pps in English, German & Dutch were heard. Signal strength was satisfactory. Sat/Sun Nov 29th & 30th Nova was for the 3rd weekend that month on the air, this time once again on 6210 with nice signals. Email: <nova@total.com>.

■ German **RADIO NORTHLIGHT** used an email message stating a new website has been put into service. SW to SW. The website is: www.northlight.nl. In fact there will be no change in 2003 either. But if you like a Flashback the station OP has started work to reply to those written in to the station since 1995...

■ **RADIO OMBREP ZUID** was noted on several occasions. Sun Nov. 10th saw the station with fair strength on 6260 in the early evening hours. Oct 27th/28th 6302 was heard on 21890 in the USA. New address is (1) and also via E-mail you can reach the station OP: <radio@ombrepzuid.nl>.

■ Dutch **RADIO PARADISE** was heard back on the airwaves Sun Oct 27th following a 3 month absence. On 6307, fairly strong, but also slightly undermodulated signal was noted. The station's <radio@paradise.nl> <radio@paradise.nl> address is no more. Instead use: <paradise@nederland3.nl>.

■ **RADIO PERFECT** from Germany was heard with fair signals on Sat/Sun Sept 22nd. The station is putting out a CSW format and can be reached via P.O. Box 1732, D-48578 Gronau, Germany.

■ **RADIO PIETZENDEN** is a Dutch station which was heard on 6308 Sun Sept 29th. The very strong signal was splintering some 30 kHz on both sides of the freq! The station is using a new E-mail add: <radio@pietenden.nl>. Smallmail add is P.O. Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle in The Netherlands.

■ **POWER 41** was heard with nice strength on 7480 Sun Max. 24th. 7495 was in use on Sat Dec. 1st but the signal was very poor. Better results were achieved on 6260 Sat Dec 7th and 6241 Sat Dec 8th/15th.

■ **Scandinavian G-103** was noted on 13840 kHz Sat Nov. 9th via the tx of the 903. The tx output consisted of a 1979-1983 review. The following day the tx was repeated.

■ **RADIO SALANDESE ROER** is one of the Dutch powerhouses being often to be heard on 6400 meters during the weekends. The station was heard 800 kilowatts east of Russia's capital Moscow on Sun Sept. 15th when the station was broadcasting on 6290. Add at the moment of reception was 0.5 kW. Add a P.O. Box 139, 7890 AC Koozevaars in the Netherlands. E-mail is: <psr@roer.nl>.

■ **RADIO SELECT** can be reached via the following new E-mail add: <radio@select.nl>.

■ **SENSATION AM** (5) was being received in the USA in the early hours of Sun Sept. 22nd. The station operated on 15725 MHz. Sun 20th as the early morning hours, the station was received with a nice signal in Australia.

■ **RADIO SPACEHUTS INTERNATIONAL** is a brand new European SW station which announced first on 19 & 48 meters for Sat Oct 27th. However, nothing was noted that day. Sat Nov. 16th however the station was indeed on the air. That day Radio Spacehuts was heard on 15810 & 15795 in the morning hours. 15810 was also noted at 14:00 UTC. Sun Nov 17th saw another 15810 broadcast in the afternoon hours. Signal strength was varying between fair and very strong. The station is using the slogan 'More rock and less talk' and also makes use of the internet. E-mail add is: <radio@spacehuts.nl>. Address is (1).

■ Sun Sept 15th German alias station **STAR CLUB RADIO** was putting out on Elbe Presley memorial show via the IRIS outlet on 13840 kHz. Most likely this was a repeat from the show which was already aired mid August commemorating it was 25 years ago Elbe Presley died. Signal quality on 13 metres was very good. Sun Dec. 8th saw SCR with a Cretay X-Mas Show on 6260. Signal strength was good.

■ **SWANSON** from Sun Dec. 8th was heard on 6260. The station was heard on 6260 with a nice signal & almost non-stop Dance & Techno. Two presenters were hosting the shows.

■ According to SRS Fleva a new German station calling itself **RADIO TISNIBERBERG** (5) prepared for its start. No times and frequencies known yet, but it will use the SRS German address in Muenster. Do keep in mind always writing 'S. Deutschland' as the first line when sending reports to (5).

■ **Umschwerung** is a new Dutch station which started SW activities in August. Sat Sept. 7th the station put out a very powerful signal on 6300. E-mail add is: <umw@umw.nl>.

■ The OP of **RADIO TORNNIVALE** has announced that the well known P.O. Box 94 in 7038 TH Zeilveld will be closing down. In the past many stations from the Netherlands made use of this mailbox. Main reason is that RT will remain inactive in the future. The majority already the case for quite some time. We wish Hans good luck!

SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES

1 = P.O. Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

3 = P.O. Box 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen, the Netherlands

4 = P.O. Box 130, 9250 DA Ruise-Cadix, France

5 = P.O. Box 1136, D-06201 Marburg, Germany (new!)

10-SRS, Ostrer Forsten 29, 442 54 Ysterby in Sweden

■ Dutch **TOWER RADIO** also known as Radio Veronique, was heard on 7485 Sun Sept 29th. Signal strength was excellent. A week later Tower was active on 6410 (including splitters) and 7485. On the latter leg the station had some technical difficulties. Sun Dec. 1st TR was heard with a massive signal on 7476 kHz splintering some 30 kHz on both sides of the carrier. It is no secret Tower Radio is using several hundred watts of power. The station uses new E-mail address: <radio@tower.nl> & <radio@tower.nl>. Smallmail add is P.O. Box 49, 7475 ZG Maribo in the Netherlands.

■ British **UK RADIO** apparently broadcasting from the Midlands can be heard most weekends on 6267 kHz with signal. On Sun Oct 13th a blank carrier was heard on 6267 for several hours leading to the question whether there was serious technical problems.

■ **RADIO UNDERGROUND** seems to be an UK operation which was heard on 6401 kHz during several weekends late September/early October. Most tests were heard with satisfactory quality in the evening hours. Tests were conducted as being live, a hotline was open for instant test. During the weekends a great number of Dutch stations are using 6400 or freqs close to 6400 making it difficult to use that one for lengthy tests.

■ **RADIO VICTORIA** (1) was heard with good strength on Sun Nov 10th. A week later 6295 provided fine reception. Sun Nov 24th saw Victoria on 6272. Sat Nov 23th Victoria was back on 6285 with strong signals. Sat Dec 7th 6290 was in use, this time signal quality was poor to fair. A stronger signal was heard on Sun Dec. 15th. The station OP announced to be using 20W which is low power. In this respect it can be said that Victoria puts out good signals. From now on the station uses the Herten mailbox.

VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS (3) was noted quite often in the past few weeks, mostly going to fellow hobby pirates. Despite the low-powered to, strong signals were noted on the various frqs on which the station was being heard. Sat Sept. 14th saw the station on 62.75, 62.76 and 62.76 kHz. Oct. 20th the station was heard on 62.99 & 63.00 but suffered technical problems. The station was reached via the following E-mail address: <voetnederland@planet.nl>.

Sat. Sept. 15th French station **RADIO WALES INFO** (4) put out special programs under the name WTC911 relating to the Sept. 11th 2001 events just over a year ago. RWI was heard on 62.10 with low signals. A stronger signal was heard on 63.09 kHz via RAL where the same programme was running. In addition Wares was heard on 11401 via its own it and on 15070 via RAL. The programme contained programme extracts from various radio/TV stations giving live coverage of the tragic events in the USA. Sun Sept. 22nd RWI was noted with the same programming on 62.45 via IJH. RWI announced to celebrate its 19th birthday with a number of frqs spread out over November. The station informed that frqs would be taking place on 48, 41 & 26 metres. Sun Nov. 2nd RWI was starting its celebration series with a broadcast on 11401 kHz. A week later 11401 was again used. Sun Nov. 17th 74.75 was used, signal quality however was only poor.

WEBCAST RADIO (5) is one of the most active Dutch stations. WCR uses some 60W of power from the Western part of the Netherlands. Most times the station can be heard with strong & well-modulated signals. WCR operates within the 48 mb but also outside close to 4400 kHz, a spot used for QSOing purposes these days. Address is Tulpstraat 10, 6223 HS Katsjk in The Netherlands. Email: <webcastradio@hotnet.nl>.

WLS MUSIC RADIO2 was to be heard Sat Oct. 19th & all Sun Oct. 27th on 41 metres 73.15. In the morning the signal was easy to catch for continental DXers whereas the afternoon saw a weaker signal. WLS is an UK radio station with links to the 1980s when the station was already active. WLS was relayed via RNI according to some sources. Sat Oct. 14th & Sun Dec. 15th WLS was monitored on 62.10 kHz. In particular during the morning hours reception was good on the continent. WLS was heard with some interesting programmes including archive recordings from Radio Veronica on 192 and ABC Europe - a famous SWB pirate from the past. In the mid 70s Address is (6). Email: <clm@wlsradio.com>.

WNRK was heard on 62.85 and 93.00 kHz Sun Sept. 15th. Both frqs were in parallel. Whereas 21 metres was very strong, the 48 mb outlet was providing a fair signal. A week later WNRK was using the same frqs in the afternoon and evening hours. Sun Nov. 10th the station used 62.67. A week later 62.60, 62.67 and 62.76 were used by the station. As far as we know there's only on E-mail add available at the moment: <wnrk@37.com>.

WESKIN RADIO (7) is a station in the UK can be regularly monitored with live signals on 122.55 kHz. The station puts out programmed ps based on a format of pop. Oct. 29th, 27th & 29th. Nov. 10th, Dec. 1st & Dec. 15th WRS was noted with strong signals on the European continent.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

IRRS

The IRRS reports that they have recently completed several technical upgrades, which are currently tested via the 138.40 MHz. Transmitter modulation has been digitally-enhanced to support CCM (Carrier Controlled Modulation) & DSS (Dual Side Band). The antenna system has been upgraded and the digital audio link to the transmitter and modulation has been improved. The station's engineer appreciates receiving any reception reports for this weekend's 08.00-12.00 UTC broadcasts on 13 metres. Power is 10 kW, target area during the weekend's frqs is Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, with DX reception in the former USSR. In the second week of November the IRRS surprisingly conducted evening tests on 42.90 kHz in the 48 mb. Tests started Mon Nov. 4th and continued later that week on Thursday, Fri and Sat. Wednesday Nov. 13th saw another 62.80 test. All was commenced at 21.00 UTC at a moment the frq was perfectly clear. Strong signals were heard all over Western Europe. We are not certain what is purpose was of the test series. E-mail add for reports is <irrs@irrs.com>. Additionally, you may use links <irrs@news.org> and obtain a QSL card by reporting on our streaming audio signal in parallel with all of our radio broadcasts. Add is P.O. Box 11028, 20110 Milano, Italy.

Scandinavian Weekend Radio

November 1st-2nd 2002 Finnish SWR started with its new weekend frequency schedule. For details please go to <www.swradio.fi>. Tests are always put out during the first Saturday of each month starting at 21.00 UTC Fr evening. In the main time the station has started 1400-America tests on the 25 mb using a 2 element beam, directed towards NAm (825 degrees). These tests are running from the start of Nov until 05.00 hours UTC early Sat morning. During the 8 hour test period, special programmes of the same Helsinki of Finnish Radio are included. The station invites listeners to participate to their Mid-Winter Progression Competition. Each correct & detailed reception report concerning the frqs in Nov. and Dec. will automatically take part in the competition. Prizes will go to three (3) listeners sending the most detailed reports as well some prizes thrown by Dorte Fortens. More details on the website: <www.swradio.fi>.

Lower Radio

London-based Lower Radio is broadcasting on 5935 kHz above with 100 kW and on 57.6 kHz with 50 kW between 09.00 and 21.00 UTC. Sunday 27th October. Both transmissions originate from Ulfersa, Latvia. The programmes will

also be available on the Internet. Lower Radio plays Classic Rock and oldies from the 60s to the 80s. Feature artists include America, Beatles, Bowie, CCR, Clapton, Deep Purple, Doors, Doors, Doors, Eagles, ELO, Genesis, Fleetwood Mac, Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Rolling Stones, Traffic, U2 and many more. The station says it hopes to eventually broadcast on a regular basis via conventional radio and satellite. It can be contacted at BCM Apenburg, London WC1N 3XX, England. Meanwhile, a "radio station" of Lower Radio called Radio Karoline is preparing to launch on 57.6 kHz in Latvia. An existing station of the same name broadcasts on FM in Poland. ©D. Netherlands Media Network. All transmissions will originate from Ulfersa, Republic of Latvia. <lowerradio@net>.

Chris Cary

Friday October 11th Chris Cary announced that RTE have turned down his proposal to relaunch Radio Nova on their 252 long wave frequency. Chris Cary: "At last a response and it's a resounding 'no'! It clearly is 40 years too late." Explaining why he thinks he was turned down he says: "20 Years ago heavily underbanned RTE and 20 years later they will not let it happen again." He revealed that he was ready to pump 5 million pounds in the project and had already got the station's schedule in mind.

Radio Caroline

(1) First of all good news for Radio Revenge lovers: the legendary Caroline vessel will be towed again to Southern Sea next Summer. Another RSL will be fired from the ship, which will be anchored at the end of the famous (and very long!) Pier. It is not known yet in which period the RSL will be held but as soon as it is known, all mentioned in the FRS Newsletter. One thing is for sure: all the programs will be presented from the station on board the ship. During the last RSL transmission came from both the ship and the Maritime station. A new RSL law prohibits that the presentation of the shows must be done in the surrounding area of the town/village for which the Radio Authority issues the licence. (Marine & Jonathan Julie & floor year)

(2) Since early December Caroline isn't anymore on the Astra satellite. If you want to listen, you are forced to buy a World Space receiver to pick up the signal which is transmitted from the All Star satellite (several bands). A stroke for all listeners outside of Britain and so also for German speaking listeners. The news about the closure of the Astra service was read out on Fri Nov. 15th at 18.00 UTC. By the way, the last program on Astra was presented on Monday December 2nd by Nigel Harris, who worked already for the station in 1977 on the MW 48 Anjo. The reason for leaving Astra is that Caroline used a radio receiver of the kind from Viasat TV, which has left Maritime and now now working on Astra. In the Station master Peter Moore claims he's very keen to try to meet another satellite channel, this time on 85.85. Reason is to attract for more British listeners than before. As already stated in an earlier edition, most British listener's dunes are directed at 85.85 (instead of Astra).

From January last 2003 the station hopes to be on a permanent 28 degree satellite. With Sky equipment the service will be available by the means using the "low channel" menu. In this case the tuning details will be as follows: 11.681 GHz Horizontal polarity Symbol rate 27.5 MFC 2/3. Due to the high cost it could be possible that Caroline would have to share the channel with an American religious provider who then will take over a considerable part of the cost.

In the mean time the encryption of Radio Caroline on Worldspace has started: from Nov. 26th onwards there's no free World Space reception anymore. The Astra digital signal is being broadcast on all three beams of the Astra satellite positioned above Africa. It covers about one third of the surface of the Earth on area which encompasses the UK and Europe, also parts of Russia, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Gulf States, all of Africa and across into India. In all 122 countries can now receive the Caroline signal. The Caroline management has made an arrangement with Nevada and can offer the following deals to those people who would like to listen to Caroline via a portable Worldspace radio set. If you call 023 9231 3093, Nevada will price a Hitachi or a JVC W52000 radio set and if you decide to purchase, the set will be sent you by express, carriage free. A subscription to Radio Caroline will cost you £9.98 per year. To purchase a subscription call Worldspace on +1 (707) 494 8722. Add your int. access code if you live outside the UK. For more information on the Worldspace system please visit their website at <www.worldspace.com>.

So Caroline fans will have to celebrate Christmas and the turn of the year without a satellite outlet that would be available for everyone. Therefore Peter Moore tried to reach an agreement with Worldspace to encourage Caroline not to leave the beginning of next year, but according to Worldspace this would be technically impossible since in conformity with a contract National Public Radio has to be encrypted on the 26th of November 2002. The Dutch Caroline organization has offered her out as a backup and already made technical alterations which makes it possible for Worldspace to receive and relay their signal. The Dutch cable is not affected by any of the changes! They will continue to bring alternative programs during the UK service on Astra Nova presents via. The Dutch cable service are Steve Soren (Colin Moulden), Richard Boscard, Simon Clark, Gary Lee and an American premier called Bowser.

(3) Earlier reports that the German programs from Radio Caroline will be stopped can be denied this time. Moore told us that with Peter Och and his friends a decision has been made to go on with the weekly program. And he told us that soon ALAN will start. Believe it or not, rock music from Asia.

(4) Other news is the health of Tony Allen & stable and for much better than expected around this time. When it starts this way, under the coming weeks Tony will reach 12 hours of special programs for the Christmas period. Moore (and we also agree for 100%) thinks that Tony deserves it as the best entertainer Caroline had in

The seventies and eighties

Peter Tait Dies, 52

On Sept. 20th one of HR's top broadcasters, Peter Tait, died aged 52. Peter started radio life with Radio Caroline under the pseudonym Peter Clark in the mid 80s. It was then that he met his 'good friend' Carl Kingston. Peter had been fighting a brain tumour since February. After Caroline, Peter went on to Radio 2 and before making Radio 4 in London his home. Following the station's split in 1990 he presented continuously for Magic 828, where his passing was being marked with a full day tribute on-air Sept. 23rd. On Sept. 29th a special repeat of an old Peter Tait program was transmitted via the Dutch section of Caroline. Our condolences are going out to the family of Peter as well as to Carl and his wife who did so much 'good work' to take care for Peter during the last months of his life.

Where are they now?

Remember Paul May, also known as Paul Dean? He still remembers his days on RN1 (1971-8) remembering this marvellous long single 'RN1 goes 24 hours a day' as the last years in radio. He has also good memories on his days on Laser Hot Hits. In the mean time he has totally quit radio and works in a pub across the river near Cape Canaveral. But when his working days are over, he wants to return to England again. For the time being he feels settled and is very proud to have raised a family and that he's become a grandfather! *** Then we're going to look at Nardap. He was sitting at a concert in the RLA TV Show 'Roadshow' due to the fact that Radio 538 is 10 years old in December. Les played a vital role in making Radio 538 a commercial radio station in the Netherlands. Les talking was talking about his radio telling Veronica closed down August 30th 1974 instead of 31st. One day only you will say I. For the rest he hands his 'one day' really came by the way. Les is back with Radio 538 which he left some years ago. Reason is that Eric de Zwart will leave as general director in January. He's got a new job on Caroline and this driving, made in to tell that he's back into music. Of course you do remember that it was he who was responsible for the success of Dutch bands like Golden Earring, Earth and Fire and not forgetting Focus. He mentioned in his Email he found a new group he's now heavily focusing: Sunfire from Dordrecht in Zeeland. He was also adding that the lead guitarist from the group is living in the same street as where the Children Radio station was situated at the time Les was working there in the 80s. 'Children Radio' for more info go to: www.childrenradio.nl. Finally Robb added that he longs to the day there will be a real rock radio station in Great Britain which will play the better music, like Radio Caroline did in the good old days (of course he refers to the seventies of the last century). *** Some of the new readers to this bulletin are again former Mr. Amigo's or Caroline deepers. First of all we heard from Add de Bruijn 51st last month. We know him as Rene van der Elst who worked in 1979/80 for Radio 4. He started his career in radio in Wierse (Radio Vroe). After his offhore period he also went into local politics and he still lives in his hometown and is working now for the local radio station Radio Weesp and is also final editor for a local weekly door to door newspaper. *** December will be the last month as a paid employee for former Veronica studio engineer Jack Geleick. After his days with Offshore Radio Veronica he started to work on September 2nd 1974 with TROS radio, where he produced a lot of programs, including the very famous series on the History of Pop Music, called Popster. A program presented by the way, by Tom Mulder (Klaan Wolk on Veronica). But knowing Jack, he will not disappear. One of the things he will be working on in the future is the Veronica archive. Also he has been asked to work for the Broadcasting Museum (all non paid). So we know for sure we will be hearing from him in the not too distant future. Enjoy the future Jack! *** Former Caroline man Keith Francis is now working in Hungary where he's presenting a daily show on capital English language station Bridge FM 102.1.

International News in Brief

Congratulations to David Allen who got an award from the Country Music Association as the international broadcaster of the year. More than 25 years Allen is active in the field of presentation country radio programs. Most recently he could be heard on R103, 20th, near Moon Country 1035. Also Allen works at the Sky History Channel as a voice-over. Of course the real radio alien knows Allen from his days on offshore station Radio 390. *** Just another month before the people of Laser Broadcasting will get their license from the Radio Authority to start a local station, RNAD FM, in Maidstone Kent. Behind the organization are a lot of people including Roger 'Twelvy' Day. On January the 7th the decision will be taken. Of course also other applicants have asked for a license. *** A station calling itself Pan European Radio was heard on Wednesday Dec. 4th at 21.00 CET 4th Dec. 5th Oct. 02.00 CET on 1080 kHz AM. For rec. reports this old was given out Pan European Radio, P.O. Box 10386, Beverly Hills, CA 90213 in the USA. E-mail: paneuroparadio@hotmail.com

Special Feature: Digital AM, DRM

The first radio stations were making use of the so-called medium wave band. To cover longer distances long wave and short wave were added at a later date. Because of its superior sound quality, FM is nowadays the most important medium used for radio broadcasts. Often it has been suggested that it's hardly any future for AM. But in fact this won't happen because of new developments in the technique. There is a global trend towards the adoption of digital technology in radio and communications, especially for distribution and transmission. Digitalisation offers many substantial advantages to national / international broadcasters and listeners. We are seeing the introduction of High quality delivery systems in homes. FM sound broadcasting is gradually moving to a

DAB standard. But coverage on FM 88-108 MHz (VHF) is limited. For many national and international broadcasters, the advantages of a complementary digital broadcast system (BLOW 30 MHz) are becoming clear. However, the limited flexibility of existing AM services is causing listeners to search for other alternatives. Implementation of digital radio in today's AM bands (i.e. long, medium and shortwave) will enable operators to provide services which will be successful with both existing and future high-quality services operating on other parts of the dial. Digital broadcasting on short-, medium- or longwave (MW) has many advantages compared to the conventional analogue system we use now. The new technique is developed by Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM). DRM is the world's only non-proprietary, digital AM system for shortwave, medium-wave and long-wave with the ability to use existing frequencies and bandwidth across the globe. DRM combines the advantages of broadcasting in the AM bands with digital modulation. As a result you can achieve an audio quality comparable with FM having the coverage of an AM transmitter. Benefits of Digital AM for listeners are: FM-like sound quality with the AM receiver; improved reception quality; flexible use of radio, whenever and wherever you want it; No change to existing listening habits: same frequencies, same listening conditions (fixed, portable and mobile radio), same listening.

Sunday Dec. 22nd the 20th Christmas broadcast on 48 & 41 meters. Tune in to FRS-Holland, just a bit different....

entertainment, indoors, in cities, in dense forests; low cost receiver, low energy consumption; Easy tuning with selection by frequency, station name or programme type; More diverse programme content, using the full capabilities of new digital features; Wide receiver range with more and better features; Radio that will give you programmes with associated text information, station name, record file, singer's name....

ABOUT THE DRM CONSORTIUM

The DRM Consortium was formed in 1998 when a small group of pioneering broadcasters and manufacturers joined forces to create a universal, digital system (also called DRM) for the AM broadcasting bands below 30 MHz - shortwave, medium-wave and long-wave. Since then, DRM has expanded into an international consortium of more than 70 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, research institutions, broadcasting unions and regulatory bodies. DRM's membership is global in scope, with members representing more than 25 nations. DRM's membership is rich in its diversity, with members from countries as varied as Ecuador, Tunisia, Germany, China, the U.S.A., Nigeria, Finland, India, the U.K., Japan, Spain and Australia. Even more impressive than the size and scope of DRM's membership is its quality. DRM is the place where engineers from cutting-edge global manufacturing firms work in tandem with the world's best-known media organisations. DRM celebrated its fourth anniversary on March 5th, 2002. Its inaugural meeting took place in Guangzhou, China in 1998. DRM is governed by an 18-member Steering Board. Its main objective would be "to formulate a digital AM system design, which could serve as a single, tested, non-proprietary, evolutionary world standard, which would be market driven and consumer oriented; to facilitate the spread of AM digital technology around the world. Dutch Houding running the major part of the Dutch broadcast facilities is participating in this international consortium. At present five international tests are being conducted with proto types of the DRM-system AM band offer very limited scope. Sophisticated sound encoding combined with an optimized modulation method make it possible to digitally broadcast on AM radio signal even though there's very limited bandwidth. To encode sounds, DRM makes use of MPEG-4 AAC (MPEG Audio Coding) Expert Group - Advanced Audio Coding. AAC is a further development of MP3 encoding. Strongly compressing digital sound will give a lack of noise. With the aid of 'spectral band replication' (SBR) the signal is reconstructed in such way that it sounds like the original for the listener. Within the available 9 or 10 kHz bandwidth, some 200 carriers are phase and amplitude modulated. The signal is encoded enabling good reception, even when part of the carrier is lost in between the transmitter and receiver. The 1 DRM-signal can be broadcasted by existing AM to following a number of adjustments. Results can be listened to on:

www.drmsystem.com/press/telegrapharticle.htm
DRM LONG TERM TEST TRANSMISSIONS: DRMs Long Term Test transmissions on short-wave continue from Swis, Portugal (Deutsche Welle), Bonine, Netherlands Antilles (Radio Netherlands), Juelich, Germany (I-Sistema Media Broadcast) and Rostschitz, UK (IT Merlin Communications). On medium wave Medienanstalt Sachsen-Anhalt is transmitting 24 hours a day in Burg, Germany. The goal of these tests is to prove the reliability of the DRM system over a complete broadcast season. The public testing of DRM consumer software and receivers took place on 14 September 2002.

Internet

[Pictures from the 60's Pure radio Both legal and pirate.
www.southcoastradio/images/60sradio.htm]
[Check this one out - www.mwradio.com/Chikensea.html]
Scotland has an official website at <http://www.scotlandradio.com/>
[Offshore (L) has recently refreshed its Times site and it's worth while visiting it
www.offshore.co.uk/offshore.htm]
[Being a radio addict seems to have positive elements, at least for part of it. Just visit - www.groecius.com/radiodictation.uk/]
[David Miller in New Zealand has come up with a new site. It's only in its early stage but there's more to come. It will have a lot of interesting Radio Horrors stuff.
www.groecius.com/davidmiller/shocking.htm]

- [2] Mike Brand, the man from the Middle East reporting about the radio scene in that region for already many years, has put together all his radio experiences and opened the following site: www.mikebrandradio.com/index.html
- [3] On Geoff Harker's site you can listen to old extracts of pirate stations: www.geoffharker.com/piratearchive/index.html
- [4] The Dutch site radio.nl features a great number of interviews with radio personalities from past and present.
- [5] Remember Radio Hore in Dublin, Ireland? The station had a touch of offshore. Ford mercedes came up when surfing to: www.merco.org.uk/wt/18/18/18/18/18/18/
- [6] An interesting website about early British Radio and the first pirate happenings is: www.sterlingnews.co.uk/sterlingnews.htm. There are a few errors, but has much great stuff.
- [7] The site of the man who made it all possible. His name: Marconi! www.marconiradio.com/
- [8] The site of Mister Sterling is full of nothing! www.sterlingnews.co.uk/

MADE IN HOLLAND

One of the oldest locations from the Dutch broadcasting history, transmitting station Kootwijk, which was officially opened by then Dutch Queen Wilhelmina in 1927, will not be broken up. In this station the first connection with former Dutch India (Now Indonesia) was made on short-wave. It will be renovated and by sponsoring from government, local authorities and KPN be rebuilt into a museum. This month was also a month of a record. For the first time more than 10 million Euro was paid in one month for making advertising possible on radio and television in our tiny Holland. Last record was 2.5 years ago, when in one month 9.1 million was sold. The success is especially due to the fact advertising on radio is strong and above all very cheap and effective.

ANNUAL DUTCH RADIO DAY

Normally the date for this highly popular day among offshore and radio enthusiasts is already announced in October. But during the last years the Radio Day was organized at the Koningsdag nearby the Arts Zoo in Amsterdam. The new management has raised the prices for hiring the Koningsdag with some 40% and that is far too much in the eyes of the organizers Rob Othoff and Hans Knot. So they are self negotiating. As a result the next Radio Day could take place October or November instead of early in March it stands now it may be October or November when the Radio Day will be held. Why? Freezone Media Magazine, 25 years old in July 2003. That same month 25 years ago the very first Radio day was organized, in cooperation with Mike Brand. Next to that October 2003 the Foundation for Media Communication (SMC) is 25 years old as well. More than enough to celebrate. Therefore four special guests will be invited and in addition all the guests of the past 25 years (at their own expense).

RADIO 538 PROGRAMME-CONTROLLER MOVES TO RIVALS

After leaving the business some years ago, Jan Westendorp responsible for the daily running of Radio 538, the station he founded 10 years ago together with Eric de Zwart. Reason is that Erik (former boss of WIT on Caroline in 1979/80) is going to work for John de Mol's company Talpa Capital. This company bought all the shares from Radio Noordzee last month and Erik will not only be responsible for the daily running of this station but also will focus on founding several radio stations within Europe. Erik will also cease presenting his weekly Top 40 on TMF TV.

RADIO NATIONAAL: AM TX OF AIR

November 1st Dutch commercial radio station is Radio Nationaal switched off the 1296 AM frequency. This move-out is necessary to reduce the very high costs to secure the future of the station. The station continues with non-stop music 24 hours a day 7 days a week via cable and Internet. Radio Nationaal owns the exclusive right of its starting time on 1296 AM. The tx is situated in the UK (Oxford).

DIGITAL RADIO IN THE NETHERLANDS

Early 2003 the so-called Rondnet area, the western part of the Netherlands with the highest density, will have the honour to be the first getting digital radio transmissions. The intention is that 40% of the country must be able to receive digital radio broadcasts before the 2003 Summer. It's a fact that The Netherlands lay behind compared with the rest of Europe. Last year a test project had to be ceased because of lack of financial backing from the Dutch government. The new Dutch government (in the mean time having resigned) have yet issued a license to the public broadcasters in the country. One major candidate one must have a digital radio. Such device can receive radio signals in a superior quality compared with FM. Besides the receiver is capable of receiving pictures and texts. Most digital radio have a small built-in display monitor.

TOP 2000

During the last week of December all Dutch public broadcasters will take part in the annual listeners Top 2000. This list put together by the listeners of the Dutch MOR station Radio 2, started in December 1999 and became so popular that the All time Top 2000 is now broadcasted every year in the last week of December. However from this year onwards there will be something extra: the list will get TV coverage. During the last week of December a series of documentaries will be brought on the national TV channel 2 covering the story of certain songs which are to be found in the All Time Top 2000. From January 1st 2003 Radio 2's output will be extended to 24 hours a day. That means on extra 35 hours will be added. Up till now Radio 1 (previously retransmitted) and Radio 2 were sharing the night coverage. Talking about the X-Mas Holiday Season, several Dutch stations will be airing special hits. Commercial rock station Anemoo Classic Rock will start on December

20th with the The Arrow Rock 500, compiled by its listeners. And Radio Noordzee will be putting out the Top 888 from the 1950s between Dec. 27th and Dec. 31st.

RADIO 192

This coastal Dutch commercial radio station is very busy creating a distinct profile witness the fact a number of well known deejays have been joining the 192 presenting crew. And all of them have an offshore past. From Monday September 30th Peter van Dam is back on Dutch radio presenting the weekday between 18.00 and 19.00 on the evening on Radio 192 with the program 'Het vak van de Dain'. When doing a guest program of the 12 second week last September, the feeling to make a regular program for the station came into being. It was the atmosphere and the role not to use a corporate. Which plans the evening which was for Peter the reason to ask Radio 192 for an own show. They were of course delighted to make use of him. Peter started his career at Radio Caroline in 1972 as Peter Brian and worked for Radio Martin and Radio M'Anigo as Peter van Dam. From there on he worked for Dutch public broadcasters AVRO and TGOS as well as for Radio 10. During the last years he worked within the Belgian Radio and Television industry.

One of the other newcomers of Radio 192 is Edjo Peters, who worked for Radio Montique in the mid eighties and also works for a local station. Support Pit in Limburg and has his Media Video Production Company. Edjo has also taken part in the organization responsible for the three editions of 'Muziek uit Zee'. By the way Edjo Peters did his first program on Dutch radio as a 11 year old guy, the week after Elvis Presley died. Most remarkable new presenter is Ferry Mast, a radio professional in heart and soul. He started his career on Radio Noordzee Dutch service and also worked for TGOS Radio and Radio 10. One of his most famous shows was the Soul Show running till 1988. Since December 2nd Ferry Mast is back on the Dutch radio with his show 'Most in the Afternoon' at prime time 14.00-16.00 hours Mon-Fri. He used to do this very popular show on Dutch national MOR station Radio 2 for 5 years but was forced to leave due to internal conflicts. With Ferry Mast Radio 192 hopes to make a chance of obtaining a national-wide FM frequency. Right now 192 covers not the whole of the country via AM or cable. The AM 1332 signal is less than 5 kW, too weak to provide a strong signal everywhere. Ferry Mast says that Radio 192 reminds him to the offshore radio atmosphere in the 70s. This is the place where the real music lovers meet each other. People who know exactly what kind of mix has to be played, a balance between familiar and hard to find golden classics. 192's rival Radio 10 FM is only playing familiar hits and is much more predictable when looking at the music format. Ad Bouman has disappeared from the regular weekday programming of Radio 192. But he still remains at Radio 192 as he is doing the styling and -> direction of this station. Last but not least, the new and old radio and TV-writer presenter Ferry Eden. Hardly 6 weeks ago he was a guest in the late Sat evening show 'Club M'Anigo'. Apparently Ferry became very enthusiastic by what he heard and saw. Mon Dec. 16th he will return on the radio presenting the daily 'Goud van Oud' show a few times a week.

Radio 192's Holiday Season programming is a very attractive one, at least when you are a radio and off-line enthusiast. X-Mas Eve between 19.00-24.00 hours Janjo Belts with his band and New X-Mas. X-Mas Day the new and old radio and TV-writer presenter Ferry Eden. 18.00 hours. That same day between 18.00-20.00 the Dutch version of the famous radio play 'War of the Worlds' is to be aired followed by a two hour Andy Williams X-Mas Special. Boxing Day the 1979 Top 100 will be played. Between X-Mas and New Year Radio 192 will re-broadcast a number of 2002 highlights: the last hours of the Offshore Week late August, Radio 192 live from the Northseaside in Antwerp etc.

DUTCH RADIO SOAP PAST FFF

The Dutch council of ministers has decided that the terrestrial frequencies for commercial radio stations will be allocated by means of a system called the comparative test. Major component is the financial offer the commercial stations have to make. Friday Oct. 11th the Dutch magistrate made a decision about a request made by the authorities to change the pronouncement made on July 24th 2002 in which the magistrate urged to allocate the frequencies via an auction. The magistrate decided that, looking at the changed situation and circumstances, the Dutch cabinet is the body entitled to decide in which way the available frequencies have to be allocated. The cabinet was forced to announce the allocation of frequencies before January 1st 2003 (this has been done in the mean time) securing a new spot for a number of stations June 1st 2002. Licenses will be issued for a period of 8 years. Two steps will be allocated to stations putting out a clearly alternative music format. In this respect Kink FM only online via cable, could be one of the lucky stations in June 2003.

LAST CHRISTMAS (WHAM) WORST ALL TIME X-MAS RECORD
Wham's 'Last Christmas' from 1984 was chosen as the worst all time X-Mas record by listeners of the popular Radio 2 Show Schellens. Presenter Hans Schellens wanted to know about his listening audience's opinion regarding the massive airplay of X-Mas records in December. That resulted in the election. Listeners could vote via the Radio 2 website and the Top 5 was: 1) 'Last Christmas' (2001), followed by national André Hazes with 'Eenzaam Kerst' (Lonely X-Mas), 3) 'I Want For Christmas In Your Arms' sung Mariah Carey & Chris Rea's 'Driving Home For Christmas'. The #5 position was occupied by the unknown 'White Christmas' song by Bing Crosby. Remarkable is that Last Christmas (Wham) was the best selling X-Mas records ever in The Netherlands. Still it is one of the most played X-Mas tunes on Dutch radio.

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